

Hello Reno Seniors!

February 20, 2020

We just found out that Reno staff (Finance and Parks & Rec) are recommending raising the senior recreation fees starting in July 2020. They're also recommending stepped up fee increases (Graduated Cost Recovery Plan) over the next 5 years for all other age groups as well—kids, adults, adaptive/disabled.

The Finance Department told the Rec & Parks Department that Rec & Park (not the whole City's General Fund) must come up with the funds to cover the new state minimum wage increases that start in July 2020. Current Nevada minimum wage is \$8.25. It will increase 75 cents an hour each year until it's \$12/hour in 2024. Finance says that since Parks & Rec has most of the City's 300-400 minimum wage workers that it alone needs to come up with the funds for this. The cost is \$180,000 in the first year (over 5 years it builds to \$2.7 million). This meant the Parks & Recreation Director, Jaime Schroeder, had figure out how to do this. One of the few ways they can increase revenue is to raise fees on all their services. A schedule of recommended fee increases is part of the council's packet for its meeting on February 26, 2020 (Item D.2).

The Recreation & Parks Commission voted on February 18 to support fee increases to cover the minimum wage increase and to consider raising the age of "senior" to either 55, 60 or some higher age. They also discussed raising pickleball fees and moving it to regular Athletics so it would no longer be part of the Senior Activity Pass (now allows those 50+ to play for \$1 a session), increasing the scholarship cap and getting more qualifying seniors to apply, adding a non-Reno resident fee.

The next Reno City Council meeting is Wed., Feb. 26, 2020 at 10 am. Public comment starts at 10 am and we can be there to express our views on this. **We can also send emails, letters, phone calls to their offices and to Reno Direct at 775 334 4636.** See list on the back. The council will be discussing whether they think Recreation and Parks should raise their fees in order to get the funds to pay for the raise that all minimum wage workers will receive starting in July 2020.

**Here are some fee increases affecting 50+ aged seniors:**

Senior Activity Pass goes from \$50 to \$60 in July 2020; then to \$65 in July 2022, \$70 in July 2023, \$75 in July 2024

The \$1 drop-in fee would increase to \$1.50 in July 2020 and add 50 cents each July until it gets to \$4 in July 2024. (for Senior Activity and Full Facility Drop-in).

Full facility 10-punch pass increases from \$8 to \$12 in July 2020, to \$16 in July 2021, \$20 in July 2022 and to \$24 in July 2023, \$32 in July 2024.

Quarterly full facility goes from \$24 to \$50 in July 2020, stays at \$50 for the next 3 years.

Annual full facility is now \$150 and will not increase.

Some activities/outings will increase. Ex.: Brunch and a Movie would go up \$1 each July until it hits \$25 in 2024.

**If you are concerned about how this will affect you and other seniors you know, now is the time to get involved. Tell your story to city council. Send emails, letters, make phone calls to the council. Write a letter to the editor. Sign the petition and pass it along to others who want to help. If you have ideas to offer, please pass those on to me and to the council. Pass this information on to others and ask them to join us at council meetings.**

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**RENO CITY COUNCIL****Reno Direct 775 334 4636**

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Naomi Duerr	Ward 2	775 334 2017	<a href="mailto:duernn@reno.gov">duernn@reno.gov</a>
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Bonnie Weber	Ward 4	775 334 2015	<a href="mailto:weberb@reno.gov">weberb@reno.gov</a>
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The council meets at Reno City Hall at 1 E. First Street in downtown Reno.

Meetings coming up to make public comment at the start or end:

Regular Council meeting Wed. Feb 26 from 10am to 8 pm

Budget hearing meeting Wed. Mar. 4 from 10 am to 1:30pm

Regular Council meeting Wed. Mar. 4 from 2 to 5 pm

Budget hearing meeting Thurs Mar. 5 from 10 am to 1:30 pm

Budget hearing meeting Fri. Mar 6, from 10am to 1:30pm

Senior Citizen Advisory Committee meeting Tues Mar. 10 from 2pm at City Hall.